

Claims:

1-3 (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing program data for an electronic program guide in multiple tables, each table comprising one or more records with one or more fields and at least two said tables are related such that one said record in one said table indexes another said record in another said table, wherein the records comprise program records containing programming information, individual program records having a title field to identify a program name; [and]

sorting the records in the tables at a head end device according to a selected field type prior to delivery of the program data to a remote client device, wherein [and] the sorting comprises arranging the program records in the tables according to a stopped name version of the program name in the title field; and

transmitting the sorted records to the remote client device, wherein the client device has designated a data set size for the sorted records to be transmitted to the client device.

5-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering program data for an electronic program guide executing at a remote client, the method comprising:

storing program data for an electronic program guide in multiple tables, the tables comprising one or more program tables with records of programming information, the program tables having a title field for program titles, and one said record in one said table indexes another said record in another said table;

sorting the records in the program tables at a head end device according to the title field, wherein the sorting comprises arranging the records according to stopped name versions of program names in the title field; and

constructing a data file to hold the tables, wherein the data file size is designated by a client device.

10- 13(Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to:

sort program data for an electronic program guide at a head end device according to stopped names of program titles; [and]

store the program data in a data structure for delivery to a remote client,
wherein the data structure size is designated by a client device; and
deliver the data structure to the client device.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17 (Canceled).

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A processing system, comprising:

sorting means for sorting program data at a head end device for an electronic program guide according to a data type that a viewer is likely to search, wherein the program data is sorted into multiple tables, at least one said table includes a record that indexes a record in another said table, wherein the

sorting means sorts the program data according to stopped names of program titles, wherein the data size of each of the at least one table is designated by a client device; and

transmission means for transmitting the sorted program data to [a] the client device.

22-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A television entertainment system, comprising:

multiple clients to receive television signals and corresponding program data for an electronic program guide (EPG), individual clients having a search engine to search the program data, wherein each client device designates data structure size of the program data; and

an EPG server to sort the program data prior to delivery to the client, the program data being sorted according to a selected parameter to place the program data in a sorted arrangement to facilitate searching at the client, wherein the sorted arrangement includes a record for the selected parameter that indexes another record for another parameter, wherein the EPG server sorts the program data according to stopped name versions of program titles.

25-26 (Cancelled).